

CIVIL CENSORSHIP DETACHMENT
G-2 Section
Advanced Headquarters, USAFFE
APO 72

DDH/bf

13 November 1944

MEMORANDUM :

TO : Major General B. J. VALDES, Secretary of National Defense and Communications, Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands.

1. It would be greatly appreciated if the Civil Censorship Detachment could obtain information on the opening date for mail to the United States and such other destinations as may be authorized. We wish to eliminate possible delay to the mail by notifying the United States Office of Censorship, and censorship of other nations involved, that such mail has been examined here. Undoubtedly the United States Post Office Department also should be notified. As you know, the Commonwealth is the sovereign administrator of public matters and therefore a radio to the Postmaster General should be dispatched by your office, informing them of the re-establishment of postal communications. I suggest that this radio be routed through G-5, GHQ, thereby establishing military approval.

2. It is understood that the Naval Fleet Post Office is prepared to accept civilian mail for transshipment to the continental United States.

3. Through the excellent cooperation of Mr MATHAY, Lt. ACEBEDO, and Mr CUNANAN, we have trained Filipino personnel immediately available for examining mail, and the maximum delay will be less than 24 hours. A list of subjects by which Comment Sheets will be prepared for the Commonwealth Government, the Theater Commander, and general and special staff sections is being compiled for your comment or additions.

4. You may be interested to know that international postal service has been resumed recently to the following portions of liberated Europe:

a. Italy - To the liberated provinces, including: Avellino, Aquila, Bari, Benevento, Brindisi, Catanyaro, Chieti, Campobasso, Cosenya, Foggia, Fronsinona, Lecce, Littoria; Matera, Naples, Pescara, Potenya, Reggio-Calabria, Rome, Salerno, Taranto, Taramo, Vatican City; and islands of Pantellaria, Lipari, Lampedusa, Linosa and Ustica Islands, Sicily and Sardinia.

b. France - Non-illustrated postcards only, to liberated continental France. French North Africa and Corsica have, in addition, letter and parcel post service.

c. Russia - Mail service except parcel post on an irregular basis.

5. French censorship is admitting only postcards (and later, letters) written in French and English. Should you feel persons in the Commonwealth might desire to write in other languages, representations will be made through channels to Controles Techniques, the French censorship organization.

6. In order that you may be fully informed of all details of this intelligence gathering activity, it would appear feasible that a Filipino liaison officer of field grade be permanently assigned to the Civil Censorship Detachment as an advisor as to how this function can best aid in rehabilitation of the Commonwealth and furtherance of the war against Japan. I appreciate of course the fact that such an officer may not be presently available but it is naturally better for us to plan ahead. Incidentally I wouldn't want you to misunderstand me in this request; it is, needless to say, no reflection on the fine work of Lt ACEBEDO.

7. Your cooperation has been most deeply appreciated.



DONALD D. HOOVER
Lt Colonel, GSC
Civil Censorship Officer